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11  
12 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
13 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
14 SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

15 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
16 Plaintiff,  
17 v.  
18 CARLOS E. KEPKE,  
19 Defendant.  
20

Case No. 3:21-CR-00155-JD

**UNOPPOSED EX PARTE MOTION TO  
EXCUSE PRESENCE OF CARLOS  
KEPKE AT OCTOBER 17<sup>TH</sup> HEARING;  
DECLARATION IN SUPPORT OF  
MOTION; [PROPOSED] ORDER**

Date: October 17, 2022  
Time: 10:30 a.m.  
Courtroom: 11  
Judge: Hon. James Donato

**EX PARTE MOTION**

Pursuant to Criminal Local Rules 47-1, 47-3, and 2-1, Civil Local Rule 7-11, and Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 43, Defendant Carlos E. Kepke (“Kepke”), by and through his counsel, hereby respectfully moves the Court to issue an Order excusing the in-person presence of Mr. Kepke at the motions hearing and status conference on October 17, 2022.

Good cause in support of this motion is set forth more fully in the attached declaration of Grant P. Fondo (“Fondo Decl.”), counsel for Mr. Kepke, including a more detailed discussion of Mr. Kepke’s current medical condition. Briefly, Mr. Kepke, who is an eighty-three-year-old long-term resident of Houston, Texas, has an extended history of heart disease and heart failure, having suffered two heart attacks and other heart-related medical procedures. Fondo Decl., ¶¶ 2, 6-9. The most recent heart attack, in late 2019, required triple-bypass open-heart surgery and involved complications that resulted in an extended stay in the intensive care unit. Fondo Decl., ¶¶ 6-9. Given Mr. Kepke’s age and health condition, Mr. Kepke understands—and waives—his rights to personally appear under Rule 43 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure. *Id.*, ¶ 11. Mr. Kepke fully intends to appear personally at the Pretrial Conference, which was recently continued to November 21, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.

The Government does not object to Mr. Kepke appearing remotely. *Id.* ¶ 12.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: October 7, 2022

By:



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Attorneys for Defendant:  
 CARLOS E. KEPKE

**DECLARATION OF GRANT P. FONDO**

I, Grant P. Fondo, declare as follows:

1. I am a partner with the law firm Goodwin Procter LLP and a member of the bar of this Court, and I represent Defendant CARLOS E. KEPKE (“Kepke”) in the above-captioned matter. I submit this declaration in connection with the Unopposed Ex Parte Motion to Excuse the Presence of Carlos Kepke at the October 17, 2022 hearing. Unless stated otherwise, this declaration is based on my personal knowledge; if called as a witness I could and would testify as follows:

2. Kepke, an eighty-three-year-old long-term resident of Houston, Texas, made his initial appearance in the above-captioned matter on April 22, 2021 by Zoom videoconference, before Magistrate Judge Jacqueline Scott Corley. Judge Corley then entered an order setting Kepke’s conditions of release and setting a status conference hearing for June 30, 2021 before Judge James Donato.

3. On June 30, 2021, Kepke appeared before Judge Donato by Zoom videoconference. Judge Donato then entered an order setting a status conference for October 13, 2021.

4. On November 1, 2021, Kepke appeared before Judge Donato by Zoom videoconference. Judge Donato entered an order setting a conference for January 24, 2022.

5. On January 24, 2022, Kepke appeared before Judge Donato by Zoom videoconference. Judge Donato then entered an order setting a status conference for March 21, 2022.

6. Kepke is retired, and a long-time resident of Houston, Texas. Kepke, whose family has a history of heart disease, has himself suffered two heart attacks, various heart-related medical procedures, and additional health issues, which are not detailed herein for the sake of brevity.

7. Kepke suffered his first heart attack in 1971 resulting from blockage in his coronary arteries. As a result, Kepke spent over a week in the intensive care unit (the “ICU”) and has seen a cardiologist every year since 1971 to monitor his coronary arteries.

1           8.       Kepke suffered his second heart attack in November 2019. The second heart  
2       attack required invasive procedures and an extended stay in the ICU. While still recovering from  
3       his second heart attack in the ICU, Kepke experienced acute atrial fibrillation. Kepke's acute  
4       atrial fibrillation required repeated electrical shocks to his heart and immediate triple-bypass  
5       open-heart surgery. While medical professionals performed the triple-bypass open-heart surgery,  
6       they discovered a seventy-five percent (75%) blockage in Kepke's heart as a result of stenosis and  
7       calcium deposits. This significant blockage likely would have been fatal to Kepke had it not been  
8       discovered during the triple-bypass open-heart surgery. Following his triple-bypass open-heart  
9       surgery, Kepke again suffered complications including an irregular heartbeat that required  
10      additional electrical shocks to his heart.

11          9.       I understand that Kepke's previous atrial-fibrillation episodes significantly  
12      increase his risk of future episodes of atrial fibrillation. In addition, the calcium deposits in  
13      Kepke's arteries make it impossible for Kepke to receive a stent—a common treatment for artery  
14      narrowing—forcing Kepke to take several medications and to receive regular monitoring for  
15      further blockage. As a result of Kepke's cardiac conditions, Kepke is regularly monitored for a  
16      weakened aortic valve that may require a replacement. At his advanced age, there is no guarantee  
17      Kepke would survive extensive, invasive surgeries, let alone a third cardiac arrest.

18          10.      Appearing in person at the October 17, 2022 conference would require Kepke to  
19      travel between Houston and San Francisco, including:

- 20              a.     At least two days of travel including two flights, between San Francisco and
- 21                     Houston, Texas;
- 22              b.     At least one night of hotel lodging;
- 23              c.     Transportation to and from the San Francisco Airport; and
- 24              d.     Transportation to and from the Court.

25          11.      I have previously advised Kepke of his rights under Rule 43 of the Federal Rules  
26      of Criminal Procedure. Kepke has confirmed that he waives any right to attend the October 17,  
27      2022 conference in person.

28          12.      On October 3, 2022, I spoke with counsel for the United States, AUSA, Michael

1 Pitman and Corey Smith, to determine whether the Government had any objection to Kepke's in-  
2 person absence at the October 17, 2022 conference. On October 7, 2022, AUSA Pitman  
3 confirmed that the government had no objection to Kepke appearing remotely for the hearing on  
4 October 17, 2022.

5  
6 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the  
7 foregoing is true and correct.

8 Executed on October 7, 2022.



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GRANT P. FONDO

**[PROPOSED] ORDER**

Upon consideration of the Unopposed Ex Parte Motion of Defendant Carlos E. Kepke (“Kepke”) and the Declaration of Grant P. Fondo, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED as follows:

1. Kepke’s personal appearance is waived for the October 17, 2022 motions hearing and status conference.

2. Kepke is not required to attend in-person the October 17, 2022 motions hearing and status conference.

**IT IS SO ORDERED**

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, 2022

\_\_\_\_\_  
HON. JAMES DONATO  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court for the United States District Court for the Northern District of California by using the CM/ECF system on **October 7, 2022**. I further certify that all participants in the case are registered CM/ ECF users and that service will be accomplished by the CM/ECF system.

I certify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on **October 7, 2022**.



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GRANT P. FONDO  
RICHARD M. STRASSBERG  
DAVID R. CALLAWAY